



# Fresno Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION IX • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA MARCH 2005

## U.S. EPA BEGINS FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF CLEANUP AT SITE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has begun the process of reviewing the cleanup remedies at the Fresno Municipal Sanitary Landfill Superfund site (Site) in Fresno, CA. The review process will evaluate the effectiveness of the landfill cover and groundwater remediation (cleanup) systems installed by the City of Fresno (City). This fact sheet explains the review process.

### THE ISSUE AND THE SOLUTION IMPLEMENTED

The primary objective of the review is to assure that the cleanup activities undertaken by the City are protective of both human health and the environment. Cleanup goals established for the Site include stopping the migration of contaminated groundwater from leaving the Site, and cleaning up contaminated groundwater that has already moved off the Site to drinking water standards established by the federal government and the State of California. Contaminants that are currently being cleaned up at the Site include chemicals contained in the gas that is emitted to the atmosphere from the landfill and volatile organic chemical compounds in groundwater. To better manage the cleanup activities, the Site was divided into two components called Operable Units (OUs). Operable Unit 1 included the installation of a landfill cover, a landfill gas collection system and a surface water management system. All these components of OU 1 help collect gas and leachate currently released by the landfill. Operable Unit 2 included the installation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system to cleanup chemical contaminants and a groundwater monitoring well network to measure the effectiveness of the groundwater treatment system.

The methods, findings, and conclusions of the review will be documented in a five-year review report. The report will also include a “Statement of Protectiveness” declaring if the Site is effectively remediating contaminants and recommending improvements if necessary. The report is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Upon completion, a copy of the final report will be placed in each of the local information repositories listed on back page. Additionally, a notice, announcing the completion of the Five-Year Review Report will be placed in the local paper.

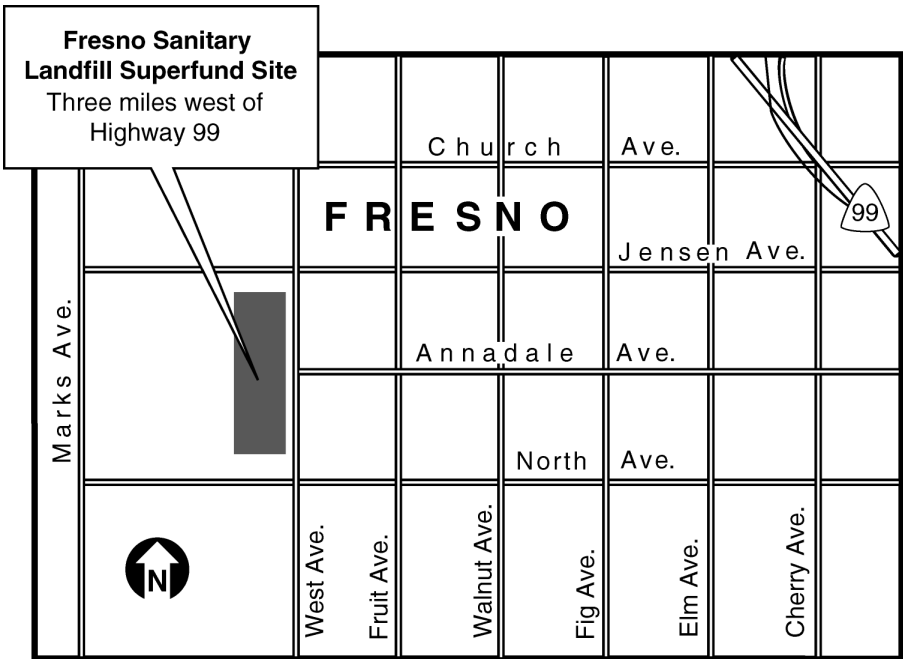


Figure 1: Area map

### THE REVIEW PROCESS

As part of the Superfund law, the U.S. EPA is required to evaluate the effectiveness and protectiveness of remedial (cleanup) systems every five years until the cleanup is complete. This first, five-year review of the Site will address the operation of the OUs and the Site’s institutional controls. Institutional controls are measures or actions taken to enhance or assure that the remedies (i.e., cleanup systems) are and continue to be effective. As part of this review, the U.S. EPA will conduct a site inspection of the cleanup systems and review required information produced by the City regarding operation, maintenance, and effectiveness of the cleanup systems.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The U.S. EPA invites the community to learn more about this review process and get involved. One way to get involved is to call Jackie Lane, Community Involvement Coordinator or Lisa Hanusiak, Remedial Project Manager at toll-free (800) 231-3075 to let us know how you feel about the cleanup conducted so far. You can obtain further site information from the U.S. EPA’s web site at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/overview.nsf> and click on the link for the Fresno Municipal Sanitary Landfill site.

## SITE BACKGROUND

The Fresno Sanitary Landfill is located four miles southwest of the City of Fresno in Fresno County. The landfill is approximately 145 acres in size and rises approximately 60 feet above the surrounding land. It is located along West Avenue between North Avenue and Jensen Avenue. The area surrounding the landfill is primarily agricultural. The Fresno Sanitary Landfill is owned and was operated by the City of Fresno. The landfill began operations in 1937 and stopped accepting trash in 1989. A protective liner was never installed beneath the landfill. Groundwater, soils and air are all impacted by the releases of contaminants from the landfill. In 1993, a Record of Decision was signed to control the source of methane gas in soil and the waste that was moving underground and away from the landfill and is referred to as OU1. It consists of the building of a landfill cover system, landfill gas control system and treatment system and surface water management system. The systems were built in 2001 along with the construction of a new regional sport park on the landfill property. In 1996, a Record of Decision was signed that called for a three-phased approach to clean up the groundwater and is referred to as OU2. Phase I, which is a two-year project to construct, will contain the contaminated groundwater underneath the landfill by installation of extraction wells along the perimeter, Phase II will prevent the spread of the plume into clean portions of the aquifer by installing extraction wells at the outside edge of the plume to pump and treat the contaminated water and Phase III will reduce contaminant levels at the contained groundwater plume by pumping and treating the contaminated water to drinking water standards. Prior to the construction of Phase I, the City of Fresno initiated an Early Groundwater Cleanup Action in January 1999 to begin pumping and treating the contaminated water plume to keep it from moving farther away from the property. Phase I of the groundwater system was completed and operational in 2001. Upon the U.S. EPA approval, each additional phase will be installed.

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### INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The U.S. EPA maintains an information repositories that contain the site Administrative Record, project reports and documents, fact sheets and other reference materials at the following addresses.

**Fresno County Central Library**  
2420 Mariposa Street  
Fresno, CA  
(559) 488-3195



**Superfund Records Center**  
95 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 536-2000

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: Jacqueline Lane (Fresno SL 3/05)

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